00-258

EDUCATION THAT WORKS

ForsythTech COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ORIGINAL

February 20, 2001

Thomas J. Sugrue, Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Room 3-C252
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Sugrue,

The four community colleges in the Triad region of North Carolina have articulated plans to utilize ITFS technology to expand data and distance learning instruction to our service area. These plans are the latest in an ongoing planning process that each of our individual colleges has undertaken to apply for FCC license of ITFS bandwidth. Our efforts to secure such license have taken place over the past six years. While efforts in the past have been individual, we now are consolidating our planning to utilize ITFS throughout our region. The concentric configuration of urban centers and rural perimeter areas in our region are ideal for ITFS technology. The Triad region of North Carolina encompasses Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Highpoint, Lexington, and Asheboro. This represents a significant portion of the state population and educational market.

ITFS promises benefits to our regional community colleges unobtainable via any other available technology. Through FCC licensure agreements with our commercial partner, WorldCom, our colleges could enjoy the following benefits:

- Free access to much needed wireless broadband services.
- Access to WorldCom Foundation revenue steam allowing purchase of up-to-date hardware.
- Access to valuable spectrum linking educational sites, business and industry, and ultimately, homes and student users.

Any other spectrum assignments by the FCC would offer few of the benefits articulated in the application previously submitted by NC Community Colleges and WorldCom. We are particularly concerned with the competition for ITFS bandwidth represented by 3G devices. These devices provide little of educational value and endanger the availability of bandwidth for much needed educational purposes. We understand these frequencies originally had been set aside to support education. Further, we see no such educational support in growth of personal Internet devices.

We ask you to consider the needs of adult learners, the growth of distance learning, and the expanding broadband needs of public educational institutions in your deliberations related to the future of ITFS.

Attached is the ITFS Utilization Plan developed by the Forsyth Technical Community College in conjunction with the other three community colleges in the Triad area.

Sincerely,

Desna L. Wallin, Ed. D.
President, Forsyth Technical Community College

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Forsyth Technical Community College
Projected ITFS Channel Usage

Information in Table One represents current utilization of data use at Forsyth Technical Community College (FTCC). Currently, Spring Semester curriculum offerings total 964 courses. 55 of these courses are offered via data intensive Distance Learning delivery – telecourses/teleweb courses, online courses, or interactiveTV courses. Total Distance Learning courses are up 95% from last year. Total curriculum courses are up 8% from last year.

We project annual increases for the next three years in the following areas:

- Data traffic related to curriculum courses - 50% increase.
- Online courses - 100% increase.
- InteractiveTV (videoconferencing) - 25% increase.

Substantive utilization of video streaming, video-by-demand, and high-resolution videoconferencing are projected in the next three years.
Online services to students will be greatly expanded in areas of Learning Resources, Student Services, and Distance Learning.

Table One

Services	Peak Usage (proj.)	Hours of Peak Usage	Aggregate Usage	Applications Supported	Number of Courses Utilizing Services
Electronic Mail Messaging	64 Kb/s	7:30 a.m - 10:30 p.m.	64 Kb/s	IntraCampus mail; InterCampus Mail; Master Internet Mail, Calendar/Scheduling Functions	100%
Web Content	1 – 10 Mb/s	24 hours	5 Mb/s	Student access to web courses, instructional materials, library, student services, faculty/staff access to Intranet and web resources	50%
File Transfer	1 – 45 Mb/s	7:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	200 Kb/s	Course down load, Backup services, Administrative services	25%
Video Audio content	3 Mb/s	7:30 a.m - 10:30 p.m.	1 Mb/s	Streaming audio and video, Instruction, Student support services, faculty/staff meetings, Staff development	20%
Video Conferencing	1- 10 Mb/s	7:30 a.m - 10:30 p.m.	1 Mb/s	Public meetings, College meetings, Special instructional sessions @ 768 mgs at 4 sites	10%
High Resolution Video	5.4 Mb/s	7:30 a.m - 10:30 p.m.	6 Mb/s	Proposed migration from 768 mgs	5%
Inter Campus Connectivity	40 Mb/s	7:30 a.m - 10:30 p.m.	10 Mb/s	Lan to Lan	100%
Inter Campus Voice Over IP	2.5 Mb/s	24 hours	512 Kb/s	Live Communication/Telephony	25%
Total Usage (estimated)	**110 Mb/s**		**20 Mb/s**		

Application areas ranked in order of usage:
Curriculum Courses
Continuing Education Courses
Huskins, Dual Enrollment Courses
Degree Programs
Professional Development
Government

Submitted by: Dr. Bill Randall, February 2, 2001